

FATAL ACCIDENTS TO OHIO FARM PEOPLE, 1950

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Eight farm people a week died due to accidents in 1950.

During a life span of 60 years a farm person has one chance in 30 of dying as a result of an accident.

More than twice as many men and boys met with fatal accidents as did women and girls.

In the last six months about 40 percent more accidents occurred than during the first half of the year.

Accidents that cause death occur to people of all ages. But a very large proportion of them happened to older people. About one-half of those who had fatal accidents were over 60 years of age.

For convenience in studying and describing the fatal accidents to farm people they were divided into three groups according to where the accidents took place; (1) on the farm outside the home; (2) in the farm home; and (3) to farm people when they were off the farm.

All deaths reported\* in Ohio in 1950 were carefully studied and deaths due to accidents that occurred to farm people were sorted and classified for this report. In selecting this group some difficulty was encountered because a few cases, especially children and some women, gave R. F. D. addresses but did not clearly state if they were farm people. All questionable cases in 1946 and in 1948 were referred back to informed people for classification.

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These questionable cases were found to contain 49 and 51 percent farm people, respectively. For 1947, 1949, and 1950 the questionable cases were assumed to be one-half farm people. The others were rural non-farm residents.

An average of six people each month died as a result of accidents that occurred in the fields, barnyard or buildings. Tractors caused 1/3 of these deaths. Falls were responsible for about 1/5 of them.

More than 1/2 of the fatal accidents in the farm home were due to falls and fractures. About 1/4 of them were due to fires, and 1/8 were cases of children smothering.

Of the fatal accidents that occurred off the farm, about 1/2 were due to auto accidents. Another 1/4 were pedestrians who were struck by auto or train. About 9 percent were cases of drowning.

There were 424 farm people in 1950 who met with fatal accidents. This is about 5 percent less than the average of 1947-49. For the last five years the number of fatal accidents to farm people were; 1946 - 507; 1947 - 452; 1948 - 442; 1949 - 444\*; and 1950 - 424.

Many of these accidents that caused the death of farm people could have been prevented. If fewer chances were taken and if greater care were exercised, many of the 2269 Ohio farm people who met with fatal accidents in the last five years might be alive today.

Don't take chances with 'quiet' bulls. Keep the safety guards in place on power machinery. Don't kindle fires with kerosene or gasoline. When walking along the road pedestrians should always face approaching traffic.

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\*Since the 1946-49 report was issued late, reports of accidental deaths were received that added four more deaths for 1949. All four were females over 65 years of age. All occurred in December. Three were from fractures and one from a burn. All occurred in the home.

As people grow older they should recognize: that their reflexes are not as fast; that their eyesight and hearing may not be perfect; that by sacrificing their pride and using a cane they may avoid many falls; and that such things as stairs, porches, throw rugs, etc., are danger spots.

We should guard against accidents with children and especially babies all of the time.

The time to be concerned about accidents is before they occur. One may be too many.

Table 1. Seasonal Distribution of Fatal Accidents by Location,  
by Months, 1950

Month	On the farm outside the home	In farm home	Off the farm	Total
January	1	11	16	28
February	2	12	8	22
March	5	16	10	31
April	6	9	14	29
May	5	11	14	30
June	11	8	19	38
July	7	11	21	39
August	9	7	19	35
September	8	9	22	39
October	9	16	27	52
November	9	17	15	41
December	3	26	11	40
Total	75	153	196	424

Table 2. Age Distribution and Sex of Ohio Farm People, by Location,  
Who Met with Fatal Accidents, 1950

Age	Number of accidental deaths						Total
	On the farm outside the home		In farm home		Off the farm		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
0-4	5	4	18	14	11	7	59
5-14	9	3	5	4	23	8	52
15-24	2	-	2	1	36	5	46
25-44	6	1	4	6	16	6	39
45-64	19	1	3	3	20	8	54
65 and over	25	-	44	50	47	8	174
Total	66	9	76	78	153	42	424

Table 3. Where Fatal Accidents Occurred to Ohio Farm People,  
1950

Place fatal accidents occurred	Number of fatal accidents			Percent of total
	Male	Female	Total	
On farm	66	9	75	18
In home	76	78	154	36
Off the farm	153	42	195	46
Total	295	129	424	100

Table 4. Types of Fatal Accidents Involving Ohio Farm People,  
1950

Type of accident causing death	Number	Percent
Falls and fractures	113	27
Motor vehicle accidents	97	23
Struck by motor vehicle	38	9
Fires	44	10
Tractors and farm machinery	26	6
Farm animals	10	2
Drowning	22	5
Smother and strangulation	20	5
Train accidents	18	4
Firearms	12	3
Others	24	6
Total	424	100

Table 5. Types of Fatal Accidents to Ohio Farm People by Age Groups and Sex, 1950

Type of accident causing death	Number of fatal accidents by age groups and sex					
	Oldsters				Youngsters	
	Age: 65 & over		Age: 5-64		Age: 0-4	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Falls and fractures	41	44	22	3	2	1
Motor vehicle accidents	24	5	46	18	2	2
Struck by motor vehicle	18	2	9	4	2	3
Fires	10	6	7	9	6	6
Tractors and farm machinery	8	-	11	3	3	1
Farm animals	4	-	4	-	-	2
Drowning	-	1	10	4	6	1
Electric shock and lightning	2	-	2	-	-	-
Smother and strangulation	-	-	2	-	9	9
Struck by falling object	-	-	1	-	-	-
Train accidents	3	-	11	2	1	1
Poison	-	5	-	-	-	-
Firearms	2	-	8	1	1	-
Other	5	-	7	1	1	-
Total	117	58	145	45	33	26

Table 6. Farm Accidents: Types of Fatal Accidents that Occurred on Ohio Farms Outside the Home, 1950

Type of accident causing death	Number of Fatal Accidents	
	Male	Female
Tractors and farm machinery accidents	20	4
Thrown or kicked by horse, or runaway	4	1
Gored by bull or kicked by cow	4	1
Falls from different levels (from hay mow, load of hay, roof, etc.)	10	1
Falls on same level	3	-
Fire in barn or brushpile	3	-
Struck by falling tree or object	6	-
Drown in water trough, creek, or well	2	2
Struck by lightning	3	-
Accidental discharge of gun	5	-
Blas injury	1	-
Other	5	-
Total	66	9

Table 7. Home Accidents: Types of Fatal Accidents that Occurred in Ohio Farm Homes, 1950

Type of accident causing death	Number of Fatal Accidents	
	Male	Female
Falls on same level	17	28
Falls from different level (downstairs, etc.)	7	6
Fractures	13	13
Fire in home (including stove explosion)	20	21
Smothered or suffocated	11	8
Poison	4	-
Accidental discharge of gun	2	1
Other	2	1
Total	76	78

Table 8. Off the Farm Accidents: Type of Fatal Accidents that Occurred to Ohio Farm People When Off the Farm, 1950

Type of accident causing death	Number of Fatal Accidents	
	Male	Female
Pedestrian struck by motor vehicle	33	10
Motor vehicle accidents		
Auto-auto collision	43	16
Auto-fixed object collision	13	3
Auto-truck collision	7	4
Misc. auto accident	12	1
Auto or truck-train accident	8	3
Pedestrian struck by train	6	1
Drowning	14	4
Poison	1	-
Electric shock	1	-
Struck by falling object	1	-
Accidental discharge of gun	3	-
Fall on same level	1	-
Fall on different level	1	-
Tractor accidents on highway	2	-
Other	7	1
Total	153	42

